Case 1:19-cv-10256-GHW Document 296 Filed 11/02/22 Page 1 of 6

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November 2, 2022

Via ECF

The Honorable Gregory H. Woods United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street, Room 2260 New York, NY 10007

*NOT ADMITTED TO THE NEW YORK BAR

Cardwell v. Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, et al. 19-cv-10256-GHW (S.D.N.Y.)

Dear Judge Woods:

Under Rule 4.A(ii) of Your Honor's Individual Rules of Practice in Civil Cases, and in response to this Court's September 22, 2022 sealing orders, *see* ECF Nos. 292, 293, 294, 295 (hereinafter, "Sealing Orders"), defendants hereby (1) seek to confirm their understanding of the Court's Sealing Order at ECF No. 293 with respect to the excerpt of Mr. Cardwell's deposition filed in connection with defendants' motion for summary judgment and move to redact certain sensitive third-party individual information contained in that deposition excerpt; (2) re-file certain documents to comply with the Sealing Orders without renewing defendants' motion to seal with respect to any client information contained in those documents, *see* Declarations of Susanna Buergel accompanying this letter motion (hereinafter "Buergel Decls.") Exs. 1–11, 15–16, 18–29,

31–37, 42–44 and (3) renew their motion to redact certain privileged client information in one exhibit to defendants' motion for summary judgment, seven exhibits to plaintiff's opposition to summary judgment, and plaintiff's Rule 56.1 Counter-Statement, *see* Buergel Decls. Exs. 12–14, 17, 30, 38–41. Because redaction of such information is appropriate under the standards set forth in *Lugosch* v. *Pyramid Co. of Onondaga*, 435 F.3d 110 (2d Cir. 2006) as well as under the Sealing Orders, defendants respectfully request that this Court grant its motion to seal.²

This Court's Prior Sealing Orders

Each of the redactions reflected in this letter motion and accompanying declaration and attachments was previously considered—and, in the case of sensitive third party information, approved—by this Court in the Sealing Orders. In the Sealing Orders, the Court found that all of the documents before it were "judicial documents" under Lugosch, and granted in part and denied in part the redactions sought by defendants' three prior motions addressed by the Sealing Orders. Specifically, the Court granted the motions with respect to sensitive references to or information about third parties based upon "the privacy interests of . . . innocent third parties," which "outweigh the public's interest in disclosure of the redacted information." ECF No. 292 at 4; ECF No. 293 at 4; ECF No. 294 at 2; ECF No. 295 at 7. The Court, however, found that it had insufficient information to rule on defendants' requests to reduct or seal certain confidential and/or privileged client information, and invited defendants to provide additional explanation to support the requested redactions. See id. With respect to certain of the initially proposed redactions, defendants believe they previously had articulated their views as to the basis for the redactions. The Court has considered those positions thoroughly, and defendants understand and accept the Court's determinations. With respect to a certain limited number of other initially proposed redactions, in response to the Court's request, Defendants file this motion to provide additional

Attached to the public version of the Buergel Declaration are copies of the exhibits with the sensitive third-party information and the privileged client information redacted.

Accompanying this letter motion are a version under seal and a public version of the Declaration of Susanna Buergel.

In accordance with Rule 4 of Your Honor's Individual Practices, attached to the version under seal are copies of the exhibits, using yellow highlights to denote redactions of sensitive third-party information that defendants understand to be within the purview of this Court's prior Sealing Orders, and red highlights to denote the privileged client information that defendants now move to redact. Note, however, that in Exhibit 40, due to preexisting and unremovable yellow highlights reflecting previously-requested redactions, defendants have used orange highlights for this Exhibit only to denote redactions of sensitive third-party information. Neither party requests that the yellow-highlighted text in Exhibit 40 be redacted or kept under seal.

Defendants have conferred with Plaintiff and he does not consent to this motion.

explanation in support of defendants' request to seal or redact certain confidential and/or privileged information.

Applicable Legal Standard

"[T]he right to inspect . . . judicial records is not absolute." Nixon v. Warner Comme'ns, Inc., 435 U.S. 589, 598 (1978). District courts have discretion to order records sealed or material redacted in accordance with the court's inherent "equitable powers . . . over their own process, to prevent abuses, oppression, and injustices." Int'l Prods. Corp. v. Koons, 325 F.2d 403, 408 (2d Cir. 1963) (quoting Gumbel v. Pitkin, 124 U.S. 131, 144 (1888)). In Lugosch, the Second Circuit enumerated three steps that courts in this Circuit should follow to determine whether a document may be sealed. First, the court must determine whether the materials are "judicial documents" to which a presumption of public access attaches. Lugosch, 435 F.3d at 119. Second, if the materials are "judicial documents," the court determines the weight of the presumption of access by examining "the role of the material at issue in the exercise of Article III judicial power and the resultant value of such information to those monitoring the federal courts." Id. Third, after determining the weight of the presumption of access, the court must "balance competing considerations against it." Id. at 120; Mirlis v. Greer, 952 F.3d 51, 59 (2d Cir. 2020) ("[T]he court must identify all of the factors that legitimately counsel against disclosure of the judicial document, and balance those factors against the weight properly accorded the presumption of access.").

Under this analysis, "[d]ocuments may be sealed if specific on the record findings are made demonstrating that closure is essential to preserve higher values and is narrowly tailored to serve that interest." Nov. 4, 2020 Hr'g Tr. at 40:2–5 (quoting *Lugosch*, 435 F.3d at 120). Such "higher values that may justify the sealing of documents include . . . attorney-client privilege," *id.* at 40:5–10 (citing *E.E.O.C.* v. *Kelley Drye & Warren LLP*, 2012 WL 691545, at *2 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 2, 2012), the preservation of which is "precisely the kind of countervailing concern that is capable of overriding the general preference for public access to judicial records." *Flatiron Acquisition Vehicle, LLC* v. *CSE Mortg. LLC*, No. 1:17-CV-8987-GHW, 2021 WL 4481853, at *2 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 29, 2021) (quoting *Diversified Grp., Inc.* v. *Daugerdas*, 217 F.R.D. 152, 160 (S.D.N.Y. 2003)). The attorney-client privilege attaches to "(1) a communication between client and counsel that (2) was intended to be and was in fact kept confidential, and (3) was made for the purpose of obtaining or providing legal advice." *In re Cnty. of Erie*, 473 F.3d 413, 419 (2d Cir. 2007).

The Court's prior order concerning the excerpt of Mr. Cardwell's deposition transcript filed in connection with Defendant's motion for summary judgment

The Court's Sealing Order at ECF No. 293 included the order that "[t]he entirety of Plaintiff's deposition should be filed with only the redactions requested by Plaintiff." ECF No. 293 at 4.

First, defendants seek to clarify that their obligation is to file on the public docket the deposition transcript excerpt that was submitted by defendants as Exhibit 1 to the Buergel Declaration in support of defendants' motion for summary judgment, *see* at ECF No. 223-1, which comprises approximately one hundred and twenty pages of Mr. Cardwell's deposition transcript, and not the entire deposition transcript itself, which has never been proffered as an exhibit.

Second, defendants have discovered that their original sealing motion, filed at ECF No. 230, and addressed by the Court at ECF. No. 293, inadvertently failed to address that the transcript contains certain sensitive third-party information concerning former or current employees at Davis Polk, a category of information which defendants understand the Sealing Orders to have otherwise approved with respect to other exhibits. Defendants inadvertently omitted to address these redactions to the Cardwell deposition transcript excerpt because, at the request of the plaintiff, that exhibit was previously filed entirely under seal. *See* ECF No. 230 at 2. Accordingly, defendants hereby move the Court to approve redaction of sensitive third-party information contained in Mr. Cardwell's deposition transcript, filed herewith at Buergel Decls. Ex. 1. The proposed redactions apply only to sensitive third-party individual information, which defendants understand the Court to have otherwise approved in the Sealing Orders, and not to any client information.

Information Defendants Seek to Seal

Defendants' renewed motion to seal encompasses two categories of documents:

- (i) Documents in which defendants have, where applicable, maintained redactions for sensitive third-party information, as previously granted by the Sealing Orders, but in which defendants have unredacted all previously redacted client information. *See* Buergel Decls. Exs. 1–11, 15–16, 18–29, 31–37, 42–44.
- (ii) Documents in which defendants have maintained redactions for sensitive thirdparty information, as permitted under the Sealing Orders, and for which defendants now move for narrowly tailored redactions to preserve confidential client information subject to attorney-client privilege. These documents are:
 - Exhibit 12: Defendants move for limited redactions to shield the identity of a client which, if disclosed, would reveal privileged communications reflecting legal advice regarding the preparation of due diligence questions, in addition to the redactions to sensitive third-party references or information. *See* Buergel Decls. Ex. 12 at PDF p. 2.
 - Exhibit 13: Defendants move for limited redactions to shield the identity of a client which, if disclosed, would reveal privileged communications reflecting legal advice regarding the strategy and timing of a filing, in addition to the

redactions to sensitive third-party references or information. Defendants have unredacted all non-privileged client information in this document. *See* Buergel Decls. Ex. 13 at PDF pp. 2–3.

- Exhibit 14: Defendants move for limited redactions to shield the identity of a client which, if disclosed, would reveal privileged communications reflecting legal advice regarding the strategy and timing of a filing, in addition to the redactions to sensitive third-party references or information. Defendants have unredacted all non-privileged information in this document. *See* Buergel Decls. Ex. 14 at PDF p. 2.
- Exhibit 17: Defendants move for limited redactions to shield the identity of a client which, if disclosed, would reveal privileged communications reflecting legal advice regarding the preparation of an indenture agreement, in addition to the redactions to sensitive third-party references or information.

 Defendants have unredacted all non-privileged client information in this document. See Buergel Decls. Ex. 17 at PDF p. 2.
- Exhibit 30: Defendants move for limited redactions to shield the identity of a client which, if disclosed, would reveal privileged communications reflecting legal advice regarding the scope of questions to submit in connection with a governance review, in addition to the redactions to sensitive third-party references or information. *See* Buergel Decls. Ex. 30 at p. 1.
- Exhibit 38: Defendants move for limited redactions to shield the identity of a client which, if disclosed, would reveal privileged communications reflecting legal advice regarding the client's rights and obligations to other equity holders and management of a company in which the client is the largest shareholder, in addition to the redactions to sensitive third-party references or information. Defendants have unredacted all non-privileged client information in this document. See Buergel Decls. Ex. 38 at PDF pp. 3–4.
- Exhibit 39: Defendants move for limited redactions to shield the identity of a client which, if disclosed, would reveal privileged communications reflecting legal advice regarding changes to the client's insurance policies, in addition to the redactions to sensitive third-party references or information. Defendants have unredacted all non-privileged client information in this document. *See* Buergel Decls. Ex. 39 at PDF p. 10.
- Exhibit 40: Defendants move for limited redactions to shield the identity of a client which, if disclosed, would reveal privileged communications reflecting legal advice regarding the strategy and timing of a filing, in addition to the redactions to sensitive third-party references or information. Defendants have

unredacted all non-privileged client information in this document. *See* Buergel Decls. Ex. 40 at p. 21.

• Exhibit 41: Defendants move for limited redactions to shield the identity of a client which, if disclosed, would reveal privileged communications reflecting legal advice regarding the client's preparation of an SEC disclosure. Defendants have unredacted all non-privileged client information in this document. See Buergel Decls. Ex. 41 at PDF pp. 35–36.

Respectfully,

/s/ Susanna M. Buergel

Susanna M. Buergel